WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

NLCPR and NEC schemes

3796. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to open the State-wise wings to deal with the matters relating to NLCPR and NEC schemes to quickly resolve the procedural paraphernalia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the alternatives, if any; and

(d) the steps to be initiated by the Ministry to dispel all sorts of barriers in the way in the sanctioning and completion of schemes?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, a Nodal Officer has been designated for each North Eastern State for coordination and follow-up on State specific issues including NLCPR. Work relating to NEC is also allocated to designated officials. NEC has initiated the process to strengthen Planning Departments of the NE State which are the nodal agencies dealing with NEC matters. The procedure for appraisal and sanction of NEC projects is done as guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance.

NERAMAC projects in NER

3797. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects run by the North Eastern Region Agricultural and Marketing Corporation in different States of the North-East;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pine-apple juice concentration plant at Nalkata of Tripura has been on the wane;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the pineapple producers of Tripura cannot have remunerative prices for pineapple producers of Tripura

cannot have remunerative prices for pineapple , as North Eastern Region Agricultural and Marketing Corporation does not procure it in time; and

(d) the remedial measures contemplated and the time-frame for it?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) has three projects in different States of the North East:

1. Fruit Juice Concentration Plant at Nalkata, Tripura
2. Cashew Processing Unit at Agartala, Tripura, and
3. Ginger Processing Plant at Byrnihat, Meghalaya

(b) The Pineapple Juice Concentration Plant at Nalkata, Tripura was set up in 1988. This plant is based on single line production and produces only concentrate of Pineapple juice. Pineapple is available only for a period of maximum three months in a year. The plant had been running at a loss since the very inception.

(c) No, Sir. The pineapple producers of Tripura usually fix the price with NERAMAC for a particular season. However, NERAMAC purchases the pineapple only during peak production time to run the factory during summer production.

(d) Restructuring and modernization of pineapple juice concentration plant has been planned. Implementation is likely to take two years.

Funds for expansion of Food Processing Sector

3798. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Exim Bank of India has recommended three development funds for the expansion of food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether appropriate action has been taken to set up funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and